

**PARASHURAMA**





# PARASHURAMA

AMAR  
CHITRA  
KATHA



THE SIXTH INCARNATION OF LORD VISHNU



Parashurama, the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu, is one of the immortals of Hindu mythology. It is in this incarnation that we encounter for the first time the emergence of a mature, well-developed human character. Because the first four incarnations belonged to non-human species and the fifth was a mere slip of a boy.

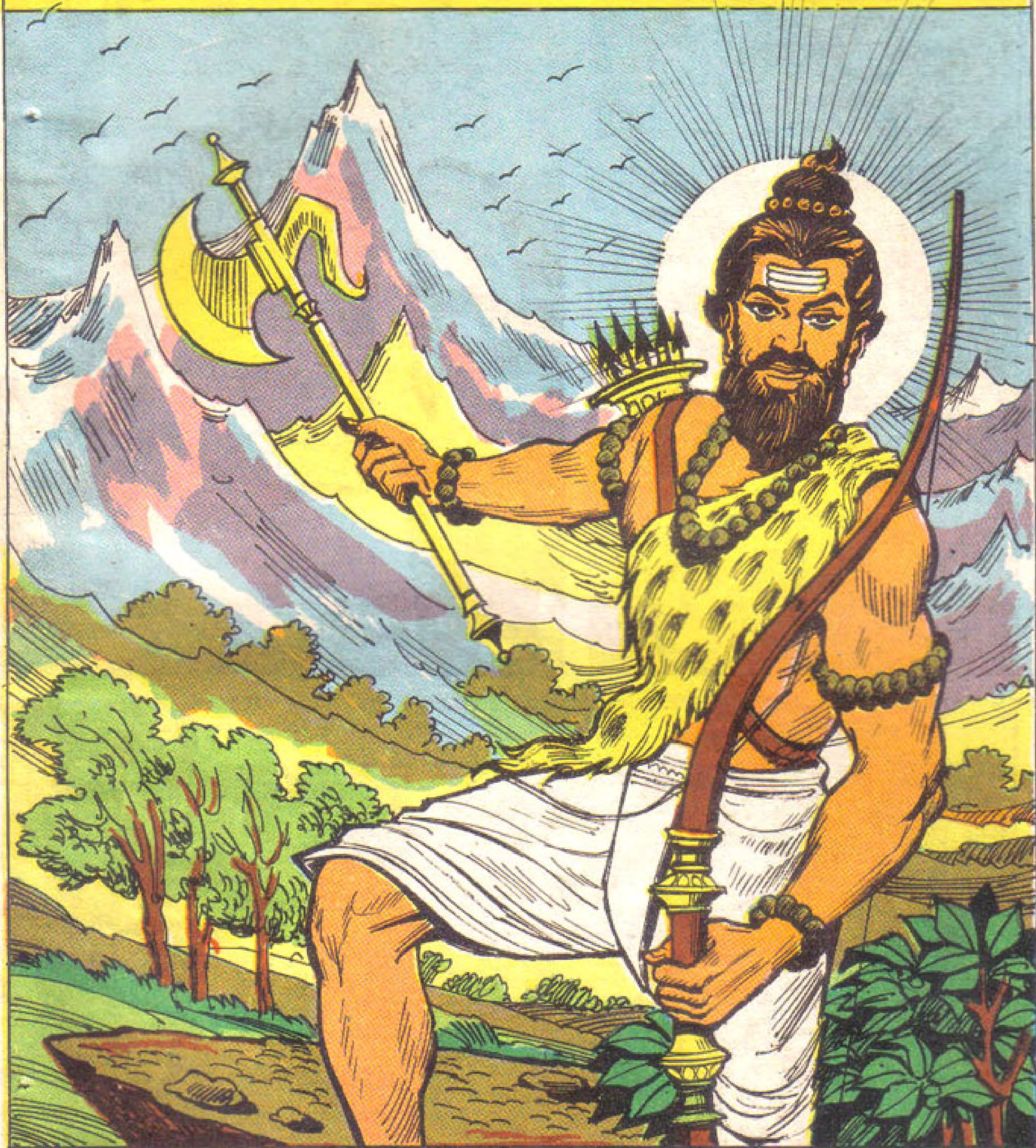
Parashurama in many ways is paradoxical. He loved his mother dearly and yet he slew her without a moment's hesitation. He was born a Brahman but he was a better soldier than any Kshatriya and went on to annihilate the Kshatriyas in the battlefield. Though born in a family of hermits, Parashurama was a man of action. His love of action took him into the eras of Rama and Krishna. Thus this is the only incarnation to step out of the confines of its own times.

Parashurama is the patron God of the land that stretches in between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea on the West Coast of India. People there believe that his powerful axe reclaimed the land for them from the depths of the ocean.

AMAR CHITRA KATHA means good reading.  
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# PARASHURAMA



PARASHURAMA WAS BORN THE SON OF RISHI JAMADAGNI AND RENUKA. BUT IT WAS A BIRTH UNDER STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES.



HIS GREAT-GRANDFATHER,  
GADHI, WAS A GOOD KING.

WE ARE  
FORTUNATE THAT  
OUR KING IS  
STRONG AND  
KIND.

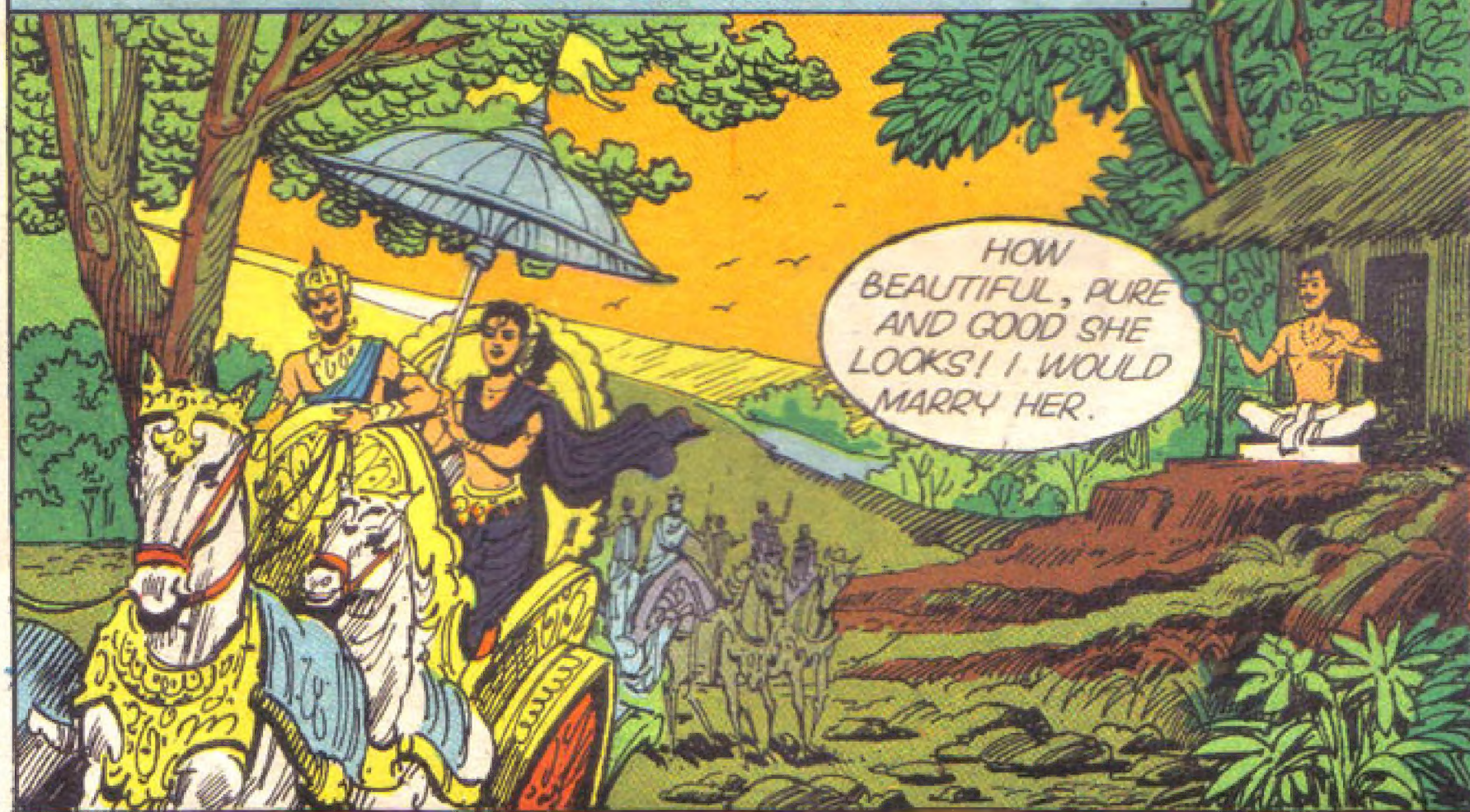
YES.  
AS LONG AS  
HE RULES,  
WE NEED  
FEAR NONE.



GADHI HAD A DAUGHTER CALLED  
SATYAVATI, BUT NO SON.



ONE DAY BHRIGU'S SON, RICHKA SAW HER.



HOW  
BEAUTIFUL, PURE  
AND GOOD SHE  
LOOKS! I WOULD  
MARRY HER.



HE WENT TO HER FATHER.

I HAVE  
COME TO YOU  
SEEKING YOUR  
DAUGHTER'S  
HAND.

I AM HONOURED,  
GREAT SAGE.  
BUT...

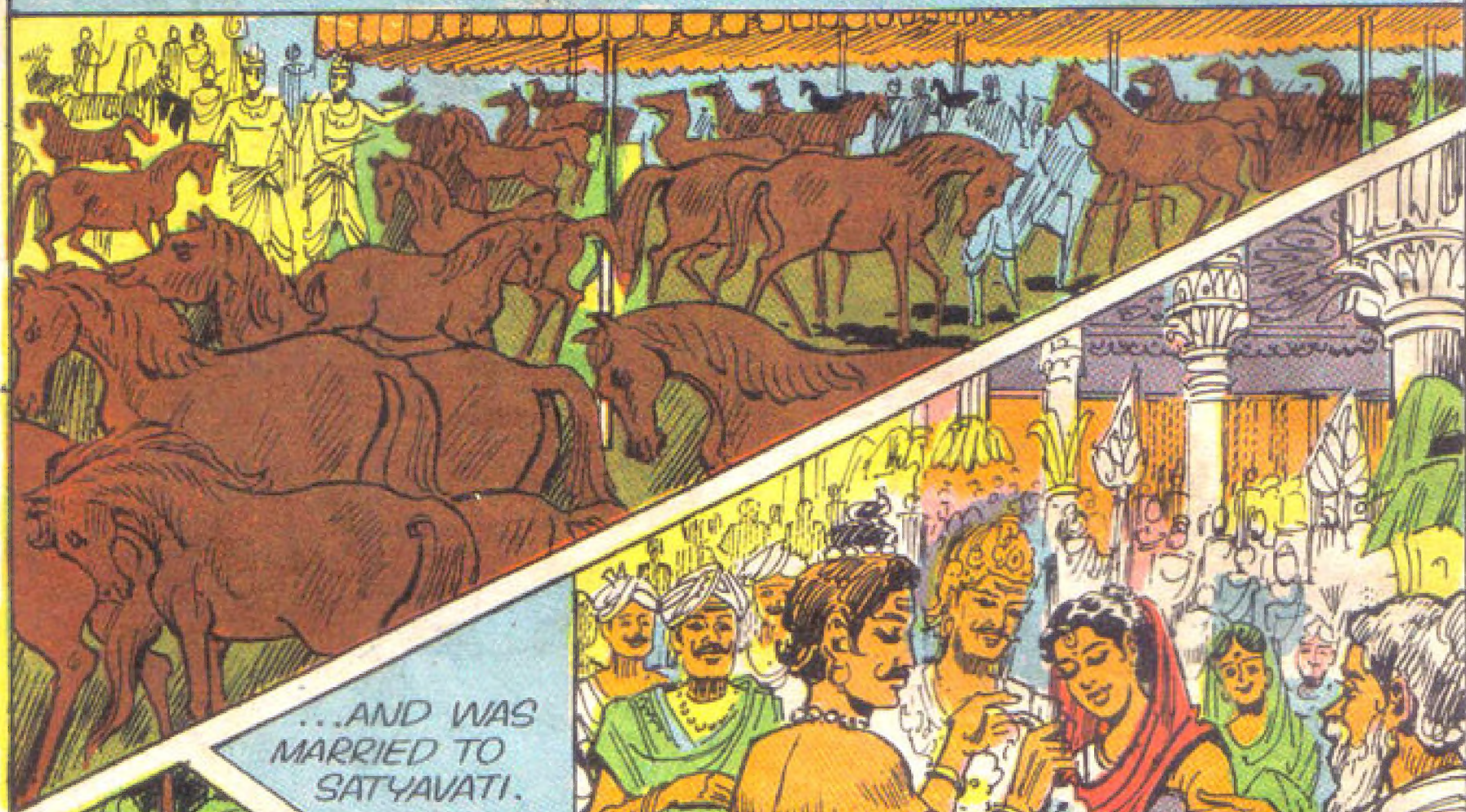
...YOU WILL HAVE  
TO BRING A DOWRY  
OF 1000 BROWN HORSES.  
IT IS THE CUSTOM  
IN OUR  
FAMILY.

CAN YOU?

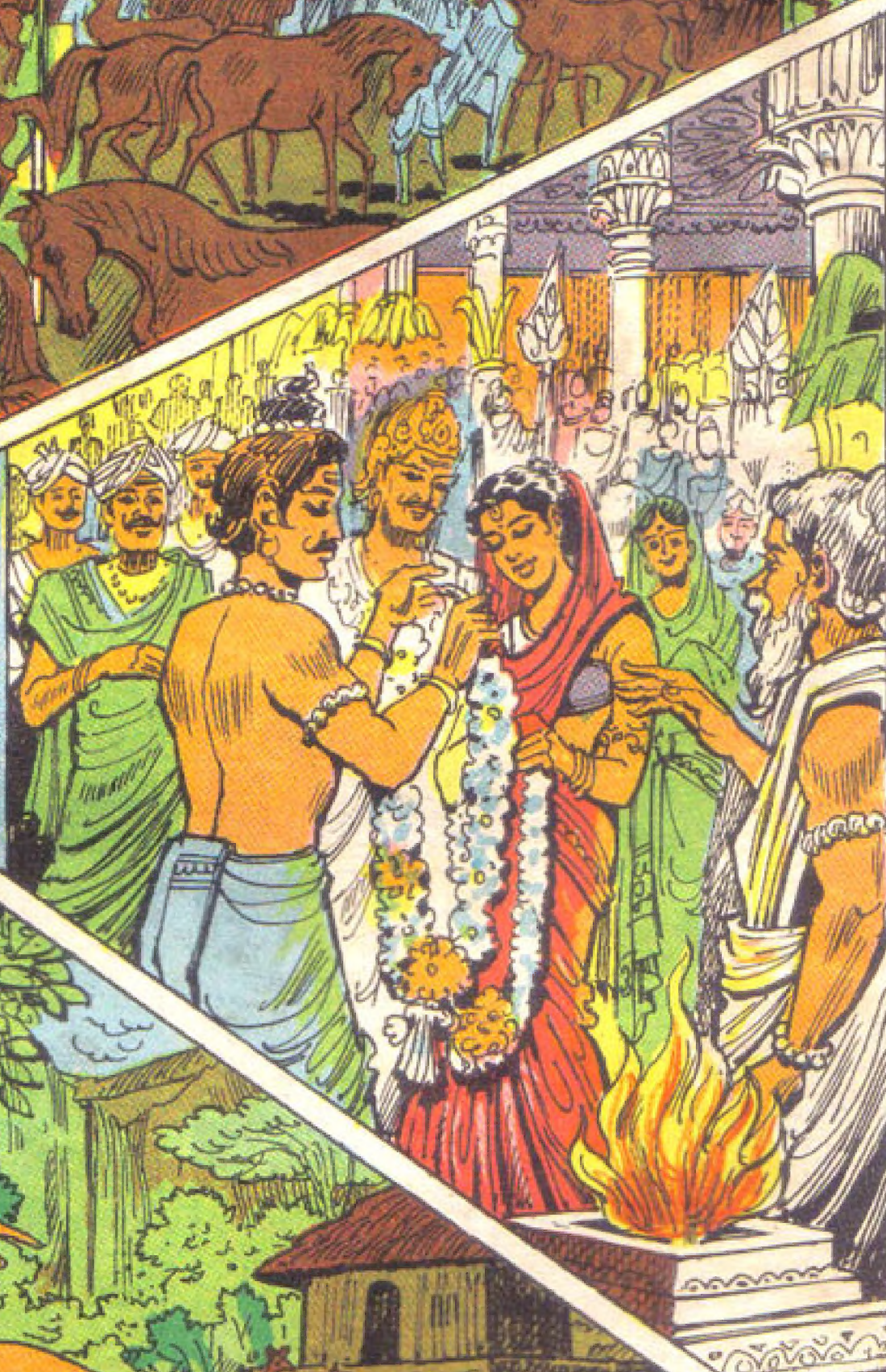
IS THAT ALL?  
IT SHOULD  
NOT BE VERY  
DIFFICULT.



SO RICHKA GAVE GADHI THE THOUSAND BROWN HORSES...



...AND WAS  
MARRIED TO  
SATYAVATI.



ONE DAY BHRIGU CAME TO VISIT HIS SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.



THEY LOOKED AFTER HIS NEEDS  
WITH AFFECTION.

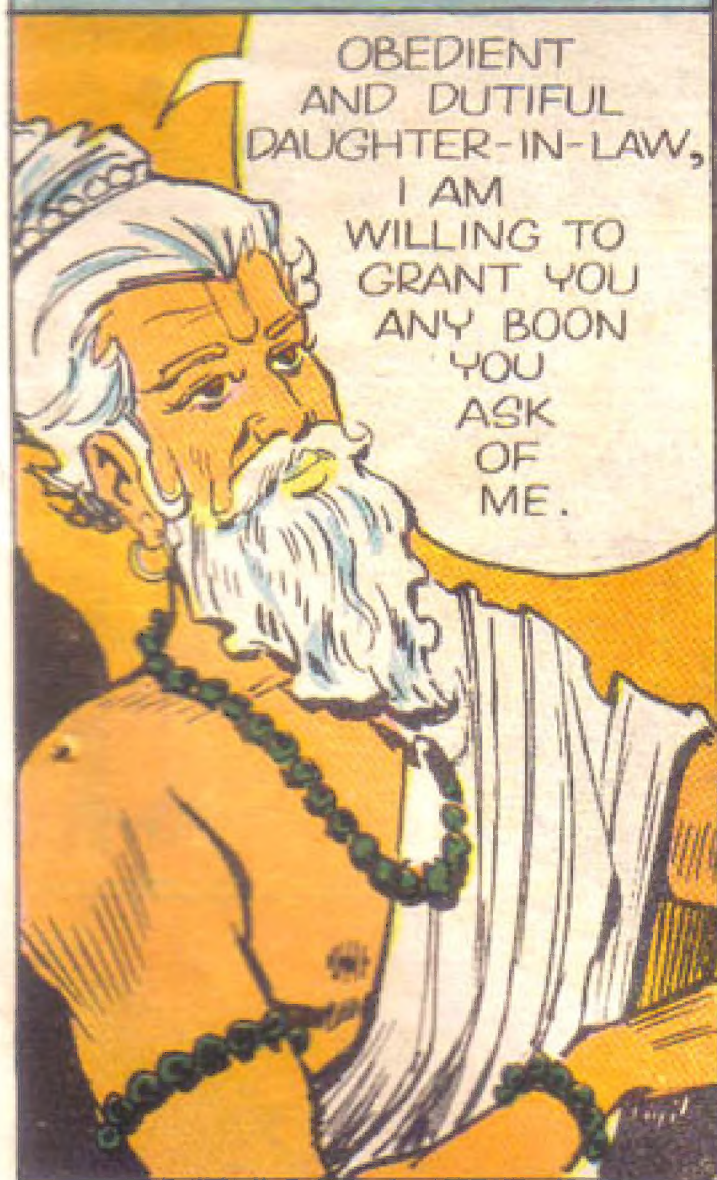


I AM INDEED  
FORTUNATE  
IN MY  
CHILDREN.



BHRIGU WAS PLEASED.

OBEDIENT  
AND DUTIFUL  
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW,  
I AM  
WILLING TO  
GRANT YOU  
ANY BOON  
YOU  
ASK  
OF ME.



FATHER,  
GIVE ME A SON  
AND A BROTHER.

YOU SHALL HAVE  
BOTH.





THEN HE TOOK SATYAVATI ASIDE.

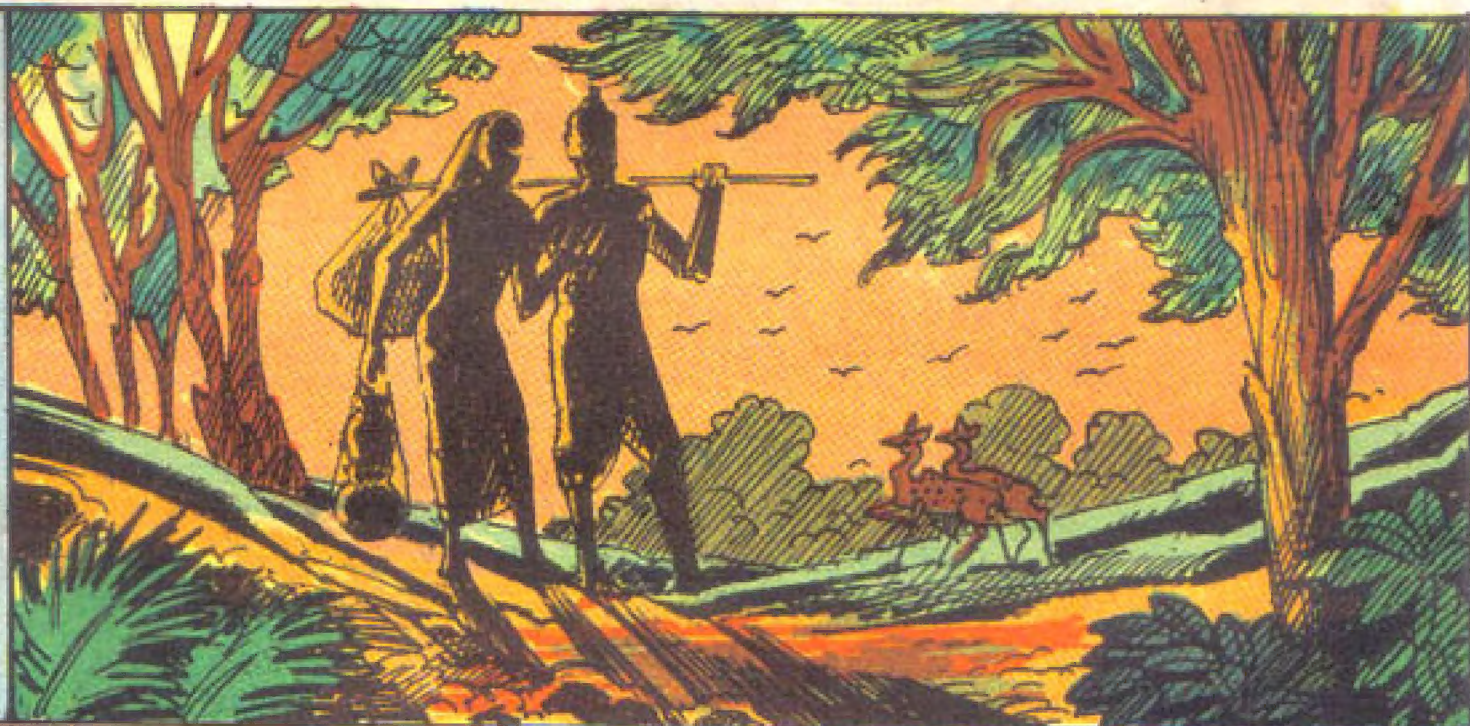
HERE ARE  
TWO POTS OF  
SACRED RICE  
AND MILK.  
THIS ONE IS  
FOR YOU...



... AND  
THAT ONE  
FOR YOUR  
MOTHER.



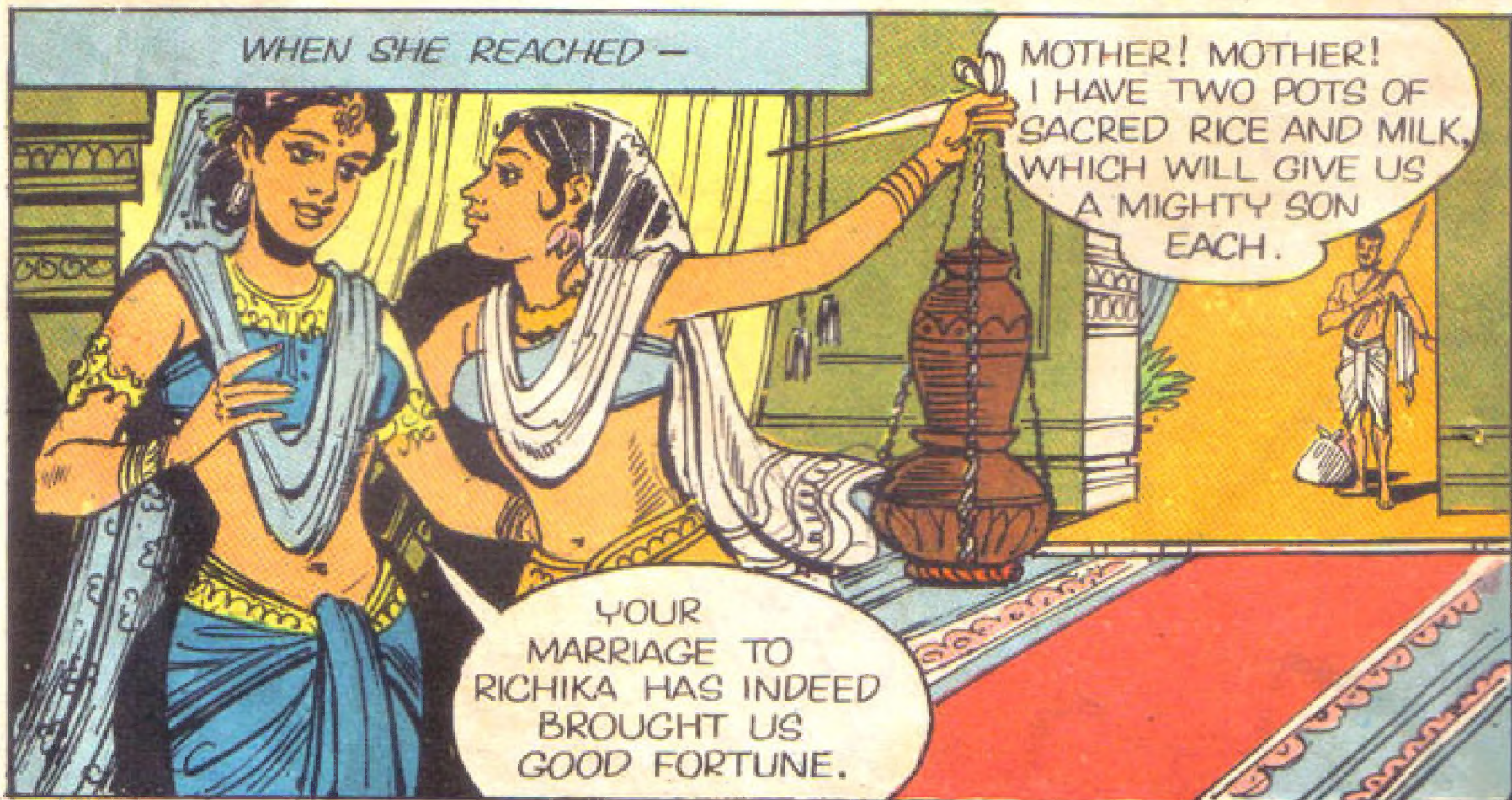
WHEN  
BHRIGU  
LEFT,  
SATYAVATI  
PICKED  
THE POTS  
AND  
ALONG  
WITH  
HER  
HUSBAND  
WENT  
TO HER  
MOTHER.



WHEN SHE REACHED —

MOTHER! MOTHER!  
I HAVE TWO POTS OF  
SACRED RICE AND MILK,  
WHICH WILL GIVE US  
A MIGHTY SON  
EACH.

YOUR  
MARRIAGE TO  
RICHKA HAS INDEED  
BROUGHT US  
GOOD FORTUNE.





BUT HER MOTHER TOOK THE POT  
MEANT FOR SATYAVATI AND...



...SATYAVATI TOOK THE ONE MEANT  
FOR HER MOTHER.



SAGE BHRIGU IN HIS SPIRITUAL  
VISION SAW THE EXCHANGE.

ALAS,  
MY CHILD!  
YOU DID NOT  
HEED MY  
INSTRUCTIONS  
CAREFULLY.



NOW,  
YOUR MOTHER'S  
SON THOUGH A  
KSHATRIYA, WILL  
TAKE TO THE  
LIFE OF AN  
ASCETIC.





AND YOUR SON  
THOUGH A BRAHMANA,  
WILL BECOME  
A WARRIOR.



SATYAVATI BEGAN  
PLEADING WITH BHRIGU.

O REVERED SIRE,  
LET MY GRANDSON  
BE SUCH  
BUT NOT  
MY SON.



BHRIGU WAS MOVED  
BY HER ENTREATIES.

SO BE-IT,  
MY CHILD.  
SO BE IT.



IN DUE TIME SATYAVATI HAD A SON.

WE SHALL CALL  
HIM  
JAMDAGNI.



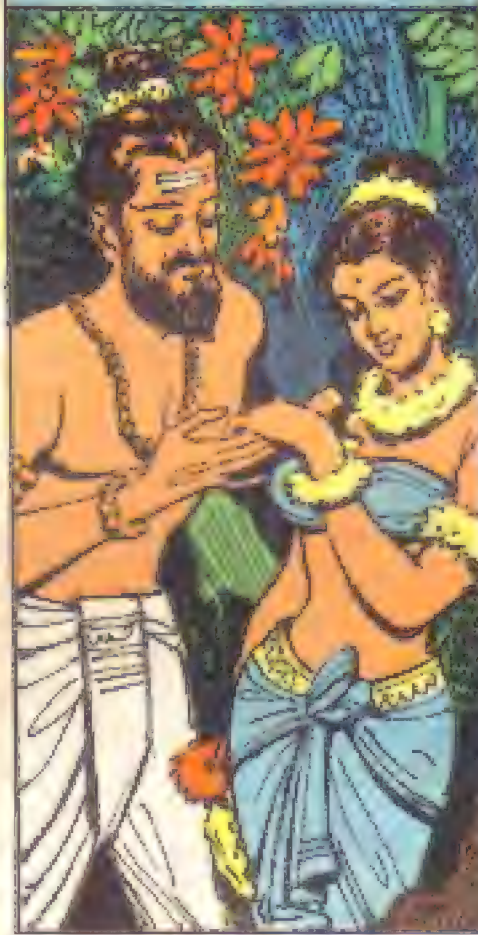


AS JAMADAGNI GREW UP, HIS DEVOTION TO THE STUDY OF THE VEDAS ALSO INCREASED AND HE SOON MASTERED THEM.



NOW I SHALL ENTER THE LIFE OF A HOUSEHOLDER. I AM READY FOR IT.

SO HE MARRIED THE CHASTE RENUKA.



MOST OF THE KSHATRIYAS OF THOSE DAYS WERE VICIOUS. THEY WERE BECOMING A MENACE AND A BURDEN TO MOTHER EARTH. THE WORST OF THEM WAS KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA, THE 1000-ARMED KING OF THE HAIHAVA TRIBE.



MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN TREMBLED WITH FEAR WHENEVER KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA RODE INTO A CITY IN HIS INVINCIBLE GOLDEN CHARIOT.



RUN! RUN!  
KARTAVIRYA  
ARJUNA  
IS HERE!



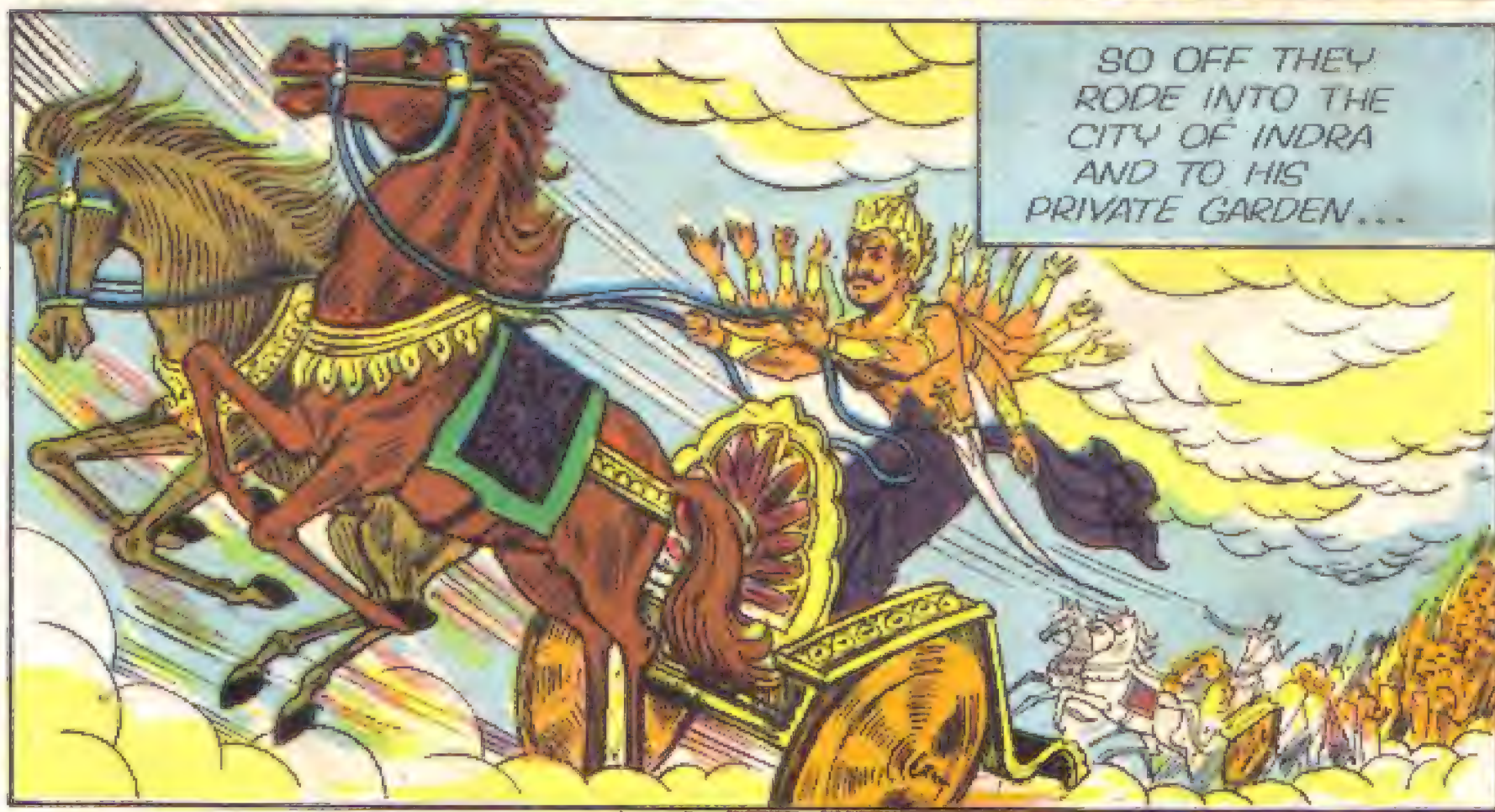


SUDDENLY HE HAD AN IDEA.

WHY WASTE OUR TIME  
HERE WITH THESE PUNY  
MORTALS. LET US RIDE  
INTO THE CITY OF INDRA,  
KING OF THE GODS.



SO OFF THEY  
RODE INTO THE  
CITY OF INDRA  
AND TO HIS  
PRIVATE GARDEN...





...WHERE INDRA WAS RESTING WITH HIS WIFE, SACHI.



IN THE MEANWHILE, THE SAINTS AND SAGES  
OF THE DAY COULD NO LONGER BEAR THE  
VIOLATIONS OF THEIR PENANCES AND  
SACRIFICES BY KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA.



SO THEY WENT TO  
LORD VISHNU.





AS SOON AS THE SAGES HAD LEFT,  
INDRA ENTERED.



I WILL TAKE AN  
AVATAR ON EARTH  
AS A BRAHMANA WITH  
UNUSUAL PHYSICAL  
PROWESS AND  
OVERPOWER HIM.

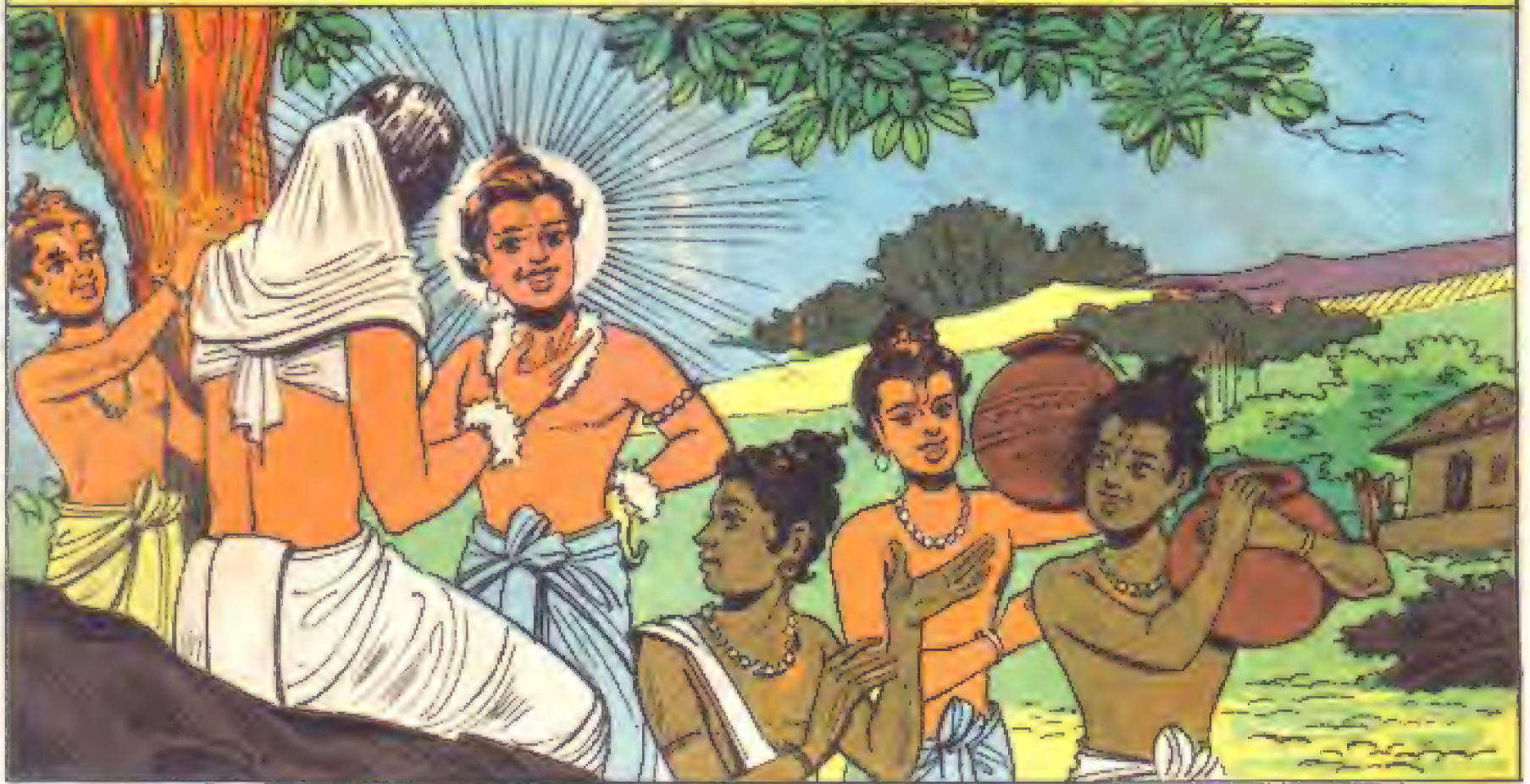


MEANWHILE FIVE SONS WERE BORN TO RENUKA AND JAMADAGNI.





THE FIFTH AND YOUNGEST WAS RAMA WHO WAS REALLY VISHNU REBORN TO FULFIL HIS PROMISE TO INDRA AND THE SAGES.



AS A CHILD RAMA WAS FOND OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE AND...

ENOUGH,  
RAMA. I GIVE  
UP. YOU ARE  
STRONGER  
THAN  
I AM.



...PLAYING WITH WEAPONS.





RAMA SOON GREW UP  
INTO A STURDY YOUTH.  
ONE DAY -

FATHER, I WISH  
TO GO TO THE  
GANDHAMADANA  
MOUNTAINS AND  
BY AUSTERE  
PENANCES  
GAIN LORD  
SHIVA'S  
FAVOUR.

GO  
IF YOU MUST,  
MY SON. YOU  
HAVE MY  
BLESSINGS.



RAMA WENT AND SAT  
IN MEDITATION AND  
UNDERWENT SEVERE  
PENANCES.



AT LAST SHIVA APPEARED  
TO HIM.

YOU HAVE PLEASSED  
ME BY YOUR  
DEVOTION.  
WHAT IS IT  
THAT YOU  
DESIRE?



I HAVE SET MY  
HEART ON THE  
FIERY AXE,  
THE POWERFUL  
PARASHU.

AS YOU  
DESERVE, YOU  
SHALL HAVE IT. NO  
WARRIOR ON EARTH  
SHALL SURPASS  
YOU.





AND FROM THAT DAY RAMA CAME TO BE KNOWN AS PARASHURAMA.\*



TAKING HIS AXE, PARASHURAMA RETURNED TO HIS FATHER'S ASHRAM.



JAMADAGNI WAS OVERJOYED TO SEE HIM.

MY SON,  
I AM GLAD  
YOU HAVE RETURNED.  
NOW YOU ARE  
THERE  
TO DO IT.

DO  
WHAT  
FATHER?



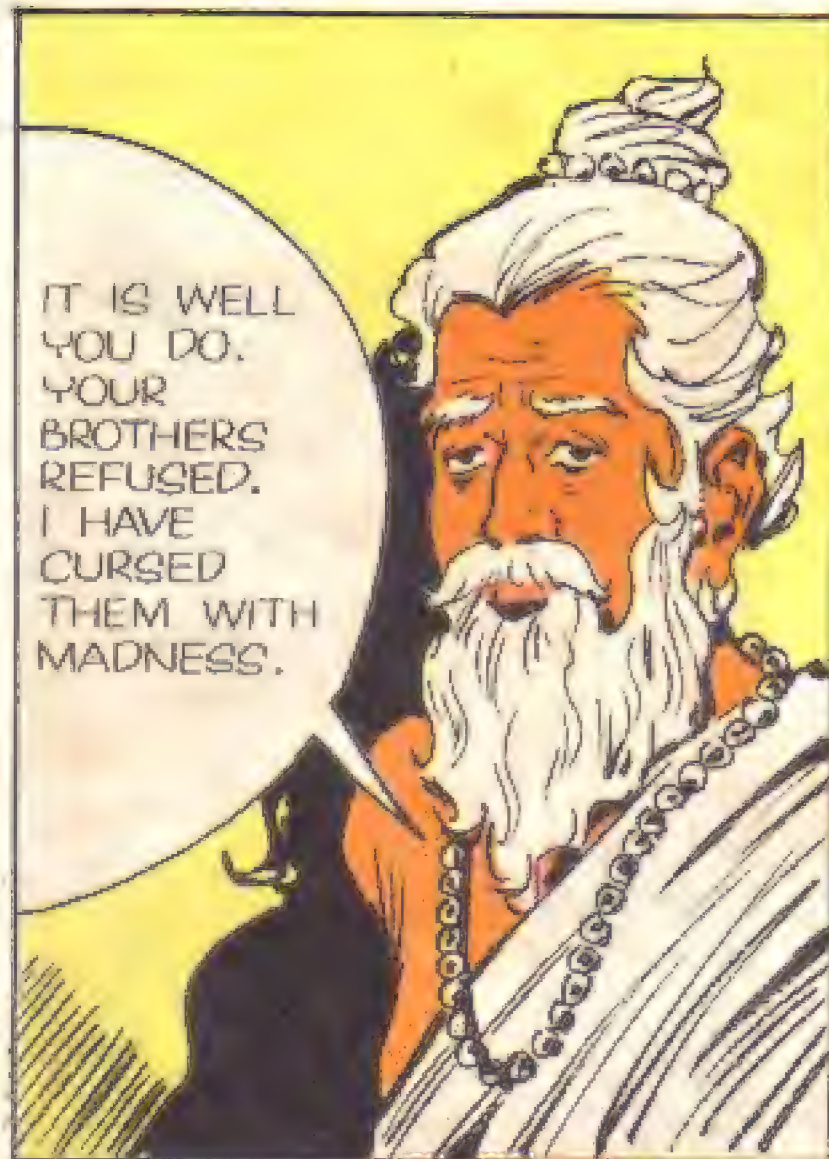
KILL YOUR MOTHER!  
SHE  
HAS  
SINNED.

FATHER,  
IT IS  
MY DUTY  
TO OBEY  
YOU.



\*RAMA OF THE AXE.





PARASHURAMA, WITH ONE BLOW OF HIS AXE, KILLED HIS MOTHER.

YOUR UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE PLEASES ME. ASK ANY BOON AND IT SHALL BE YOURS.



THIS WAS WHAT PARASHURAMA WAS WAITING FOR.

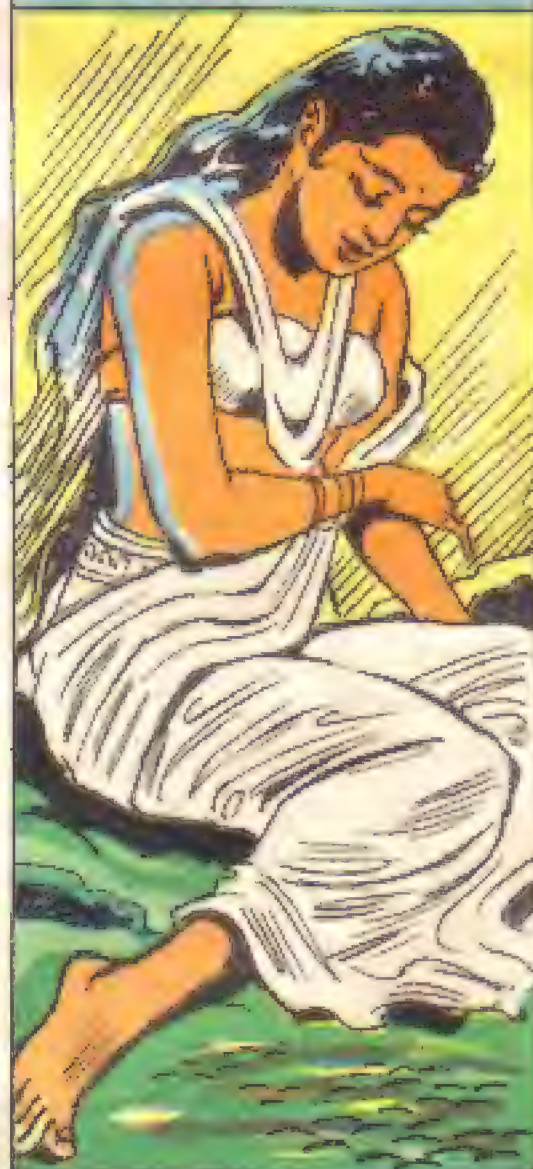
RESTORE MY MOTHER'S LIFE AND LOVE HER AS BEFORE. GIVE MY BROTHERS BACK THEIR SENSES. AND GIVE ME EVERLASTING LIFE.

EXACTLY AS I HAD FORESEEN!

SO BE IT.



JAMADAGNI WAS ONLY TOO GLAD TO GRANT HIM HIS BOONS.





MEANWHILE KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA CONTINUED IN HIS TYRANNY. ONE DAY WHILE PACING ARROGANTLY ON THE SEASHORE, HE BEGAN SHOOTING ARROWS INTO THE WATERS OF THE OCEAN.



A VOICE  
FROM THE OCEAN  
STOPPED HIM.

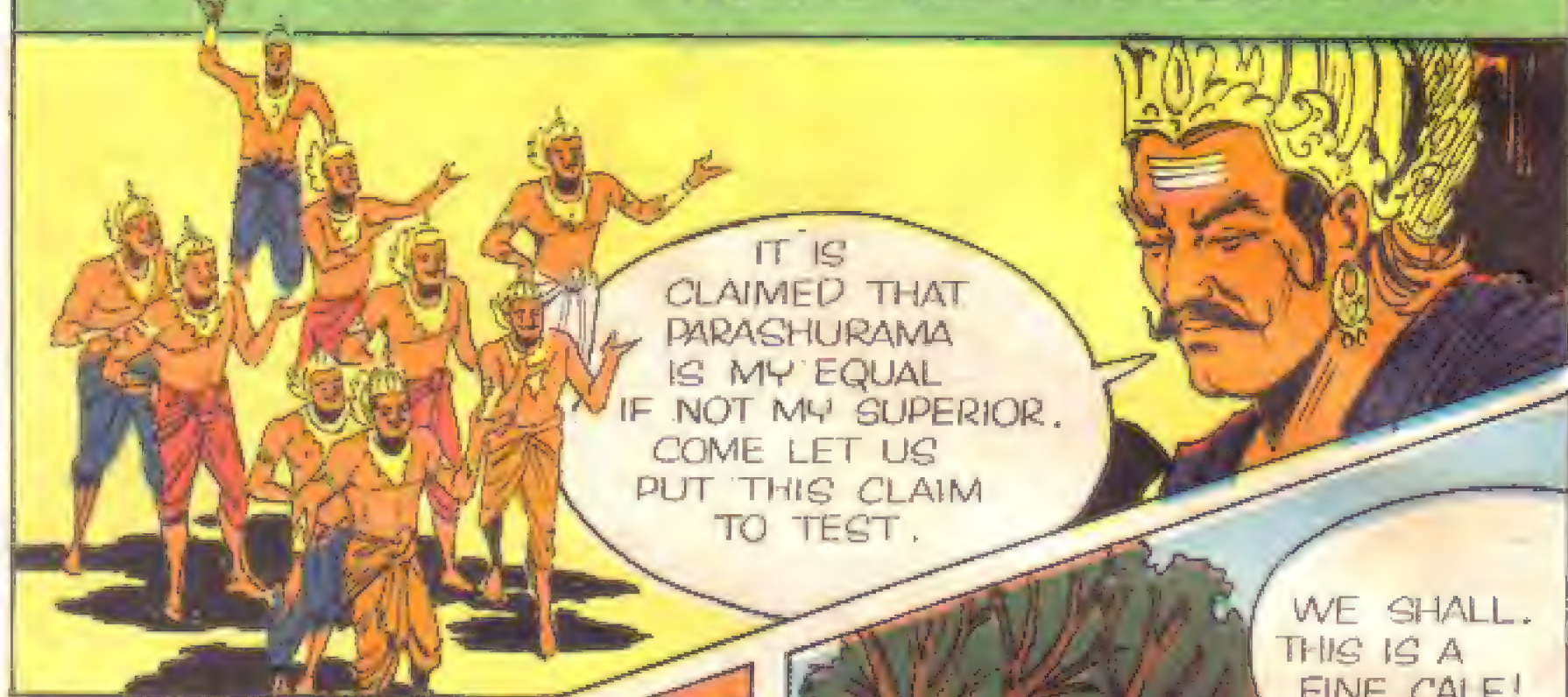
PLEASE  
DO NOT HARM  
THE CREATURES  
THAT LIVE WITHIN  
ME. I SHALL DO WHATEVER  
YOU ASK OF ME  
BUT PLEASE SPARE  
THEM.

I WILL  
IF YOU  
ANSWER THIS  
QUESTION. IS THERE  
A MAN WHO CAN  
RIVAL ME?

YES.  
PARASHURAMA,  
THE SON OF JAMADAGNI.  
HE IS MORE THAN  
YOUR EQUAL.



KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA WAS FURIOUS. HE CALLED HIS SONS TO HIM.



IT IS CLAIMED THAT PARASHURAMA IS MY EQUAL IF NOT MY SUPERIOR. COME LET US PUT THIS CLAIM TO TEST.

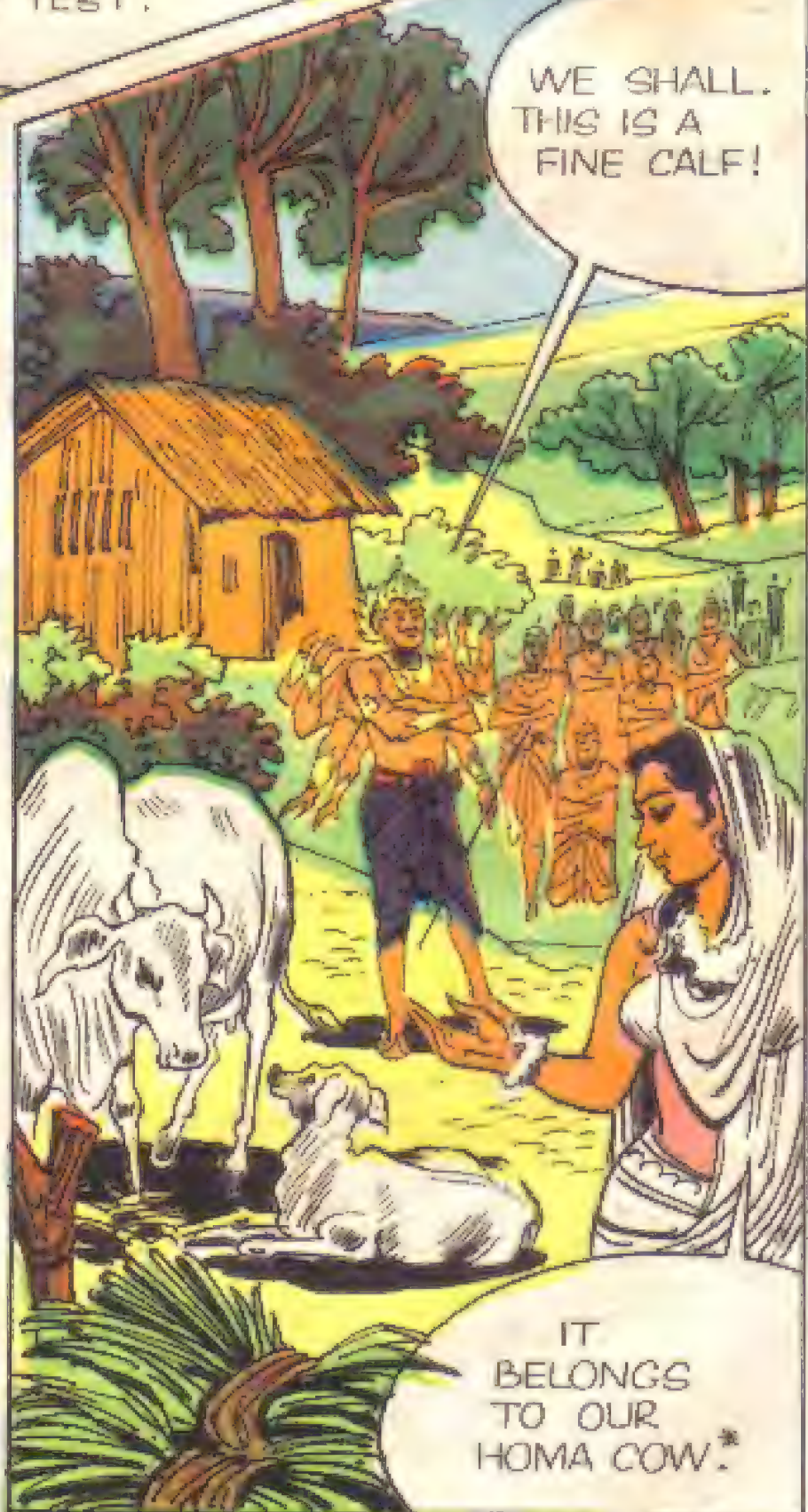
WE SHALL. THIS IS A FINE CALF!

SO THEY WENT TO JAMADAGNI'S ASHRAM.



WHERE IS PARASHURAMA?

HE IS NOT HERE. BUT, PLEASE STAY AWHILE AND BE OUR GUEST.



IT BELONGS TO OUR HOMA COW.\*

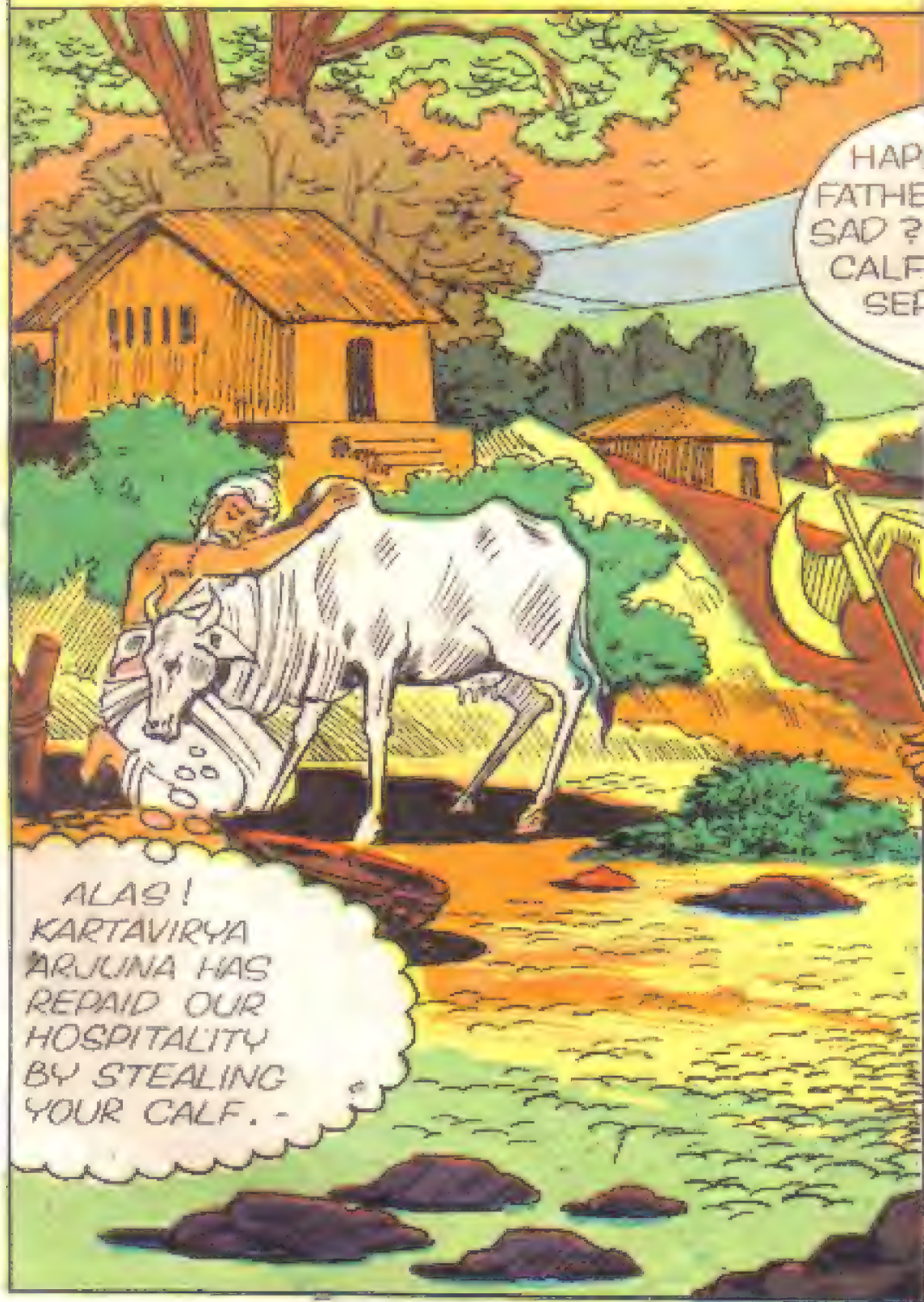
\*THE MILK OF THE HOMA COW IS USED FOR SACRIFICES ETC.



THAT NIGHT THE SONS OF ARJUNA STOLE THE CALF AND MADE OFF WITH IT.



IN THE MORNING WHEN JAMADAGNI CAME OUT OF THE ASHRAM -



ALAS!  
KARTAVIRYA  
ARJUNA HAS  
REPAID OUR  
HOSPITALITY  
BY STEALING  
YOUR CALF.

JUST THEN PARASHURAMA  
RETURNED.  
HE SAW THEM.

WHAT HAS  
HAPPENED TO HER,  
FATHER? WHY IS SHE SO  
SAD? WHERE IS HER  
CALF? WHY ARE THEY  
SEPARATED?



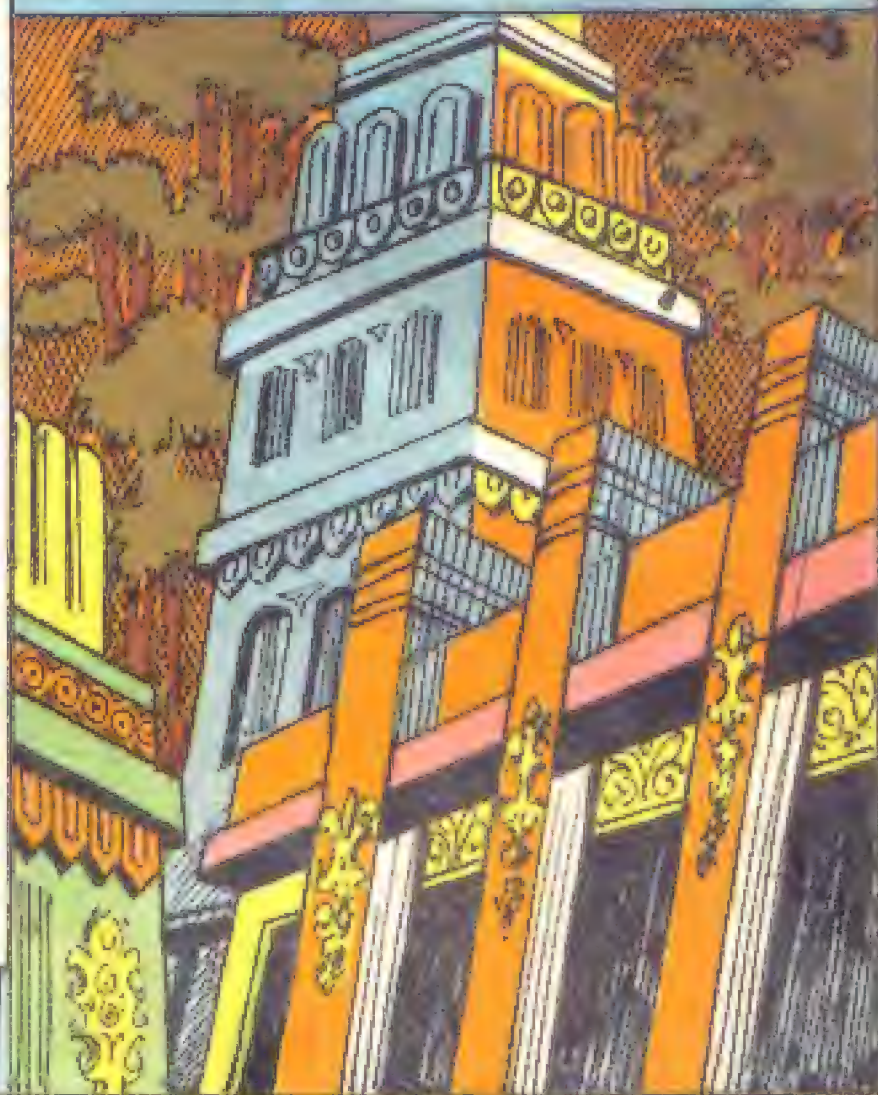


JAMADAGNI TOLD HIM  
THE WHOLE STORY.

I SHALL  
KILL HIM  
AND  
REDEEM  
YOUR  
CALF!



THEN PARASHURAMA TOOK HIS AXE  
AND RUSHED TO THE PALACE OF  
KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA.



WHEN HE SAW THE HELPLESS CALF,  
HE COULD NOT CONTROL HIS ANGER.  
HE RUSHED INTO KARTAVIRYA  
ARJUNA'S BEDROOM.





A DREADFUL COMBAT ENSUED IN WHICH PARASHURAMA HACKED OFF EACH ONE OF KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA'S THOUSAND ARMS AND...



...SLEW HIM.



THEN PICKING THE FRIGHTENED CALF GENTLY IN HIS ARMS...





...HE MADE HIS WAY BACK TO HIS FATHER'S ASHRAM.

FATHER! FATHER!  
I HAVE KILLED HIM!  
THE VILLAIN WHO STOLE  
OUR INNOCENT CALF.



THEN THEY WENT TO THE COW  
AND -

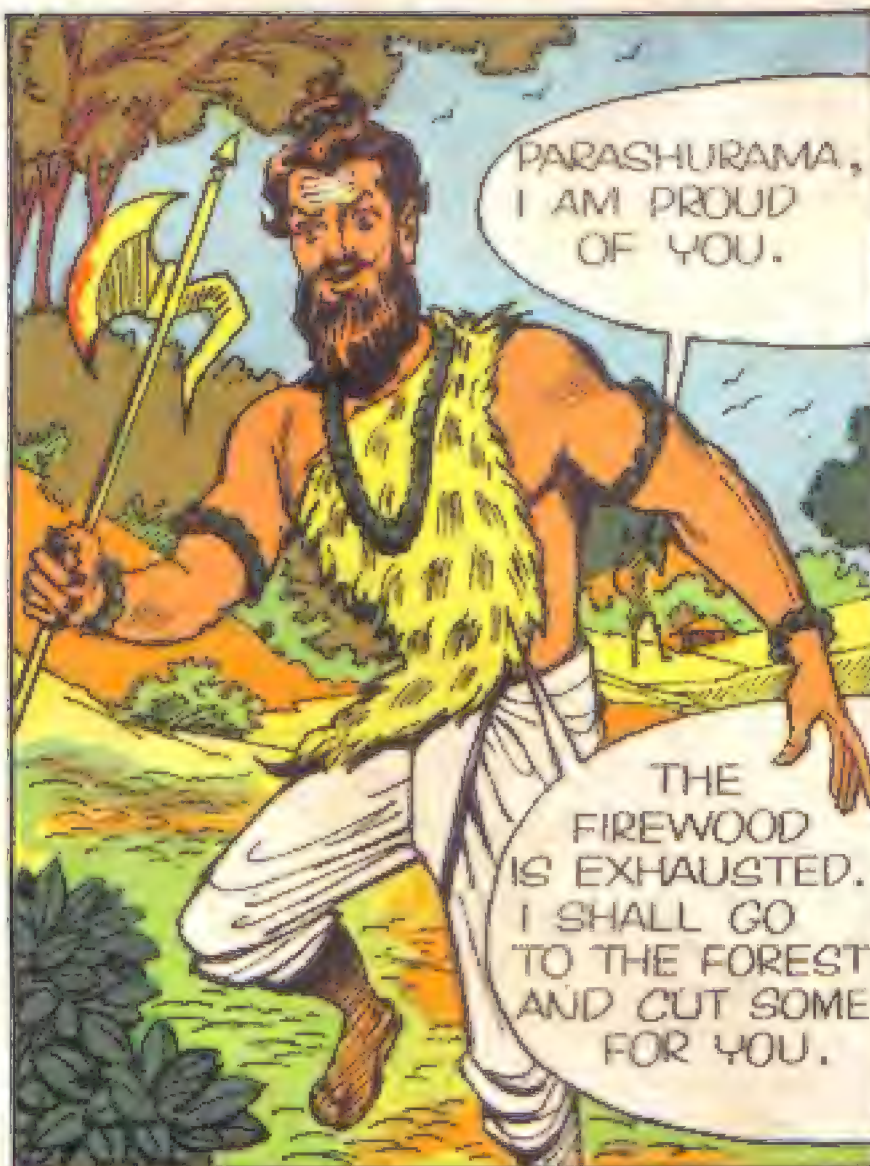
GENTLE  
MOTHER,  
I HAVE BROUGHT  
BACK YOUR CALF  
FOR YOU.



IN THE MEANWHILE -

PARASHURAMA,  
I AM PROUD  
OF YOU.

THE  
FIREFWOOD  
IS EXHAUSTED.  
I SHALL GO  
TO THE FOREST  
AND CUT SOME  
FOR YOU.



ALAS!  
HE IS DEAD  
AND THE CALF  
IS MISSING.

NONE  
OTHER THAN  
PARASHURAMA  
COULD BE THE  
MURDERER.





THEY WERE FURIOUS.

HE SHALL BE  
AVENGED!  
COME, LET US  
SEEK OUT THE  
MURDERER.



THEY MOUNTED THEIR CHARIOTS  
AND CHARGED OUT OF THE PALACE.



WHEN THEY REACHED THE ASHRAM,  
JAMADGNI WAS DEEP IN MEDITATION.

PARASHURAMA  
IS NOT TO BE  
SEEN ANYWHERE.

LET US  
KILL HIS  
FATHER  
THEN.

THAT'S RIGHT,  
HE KILLED  
OUR FATHER.  
DIDN'T HE?

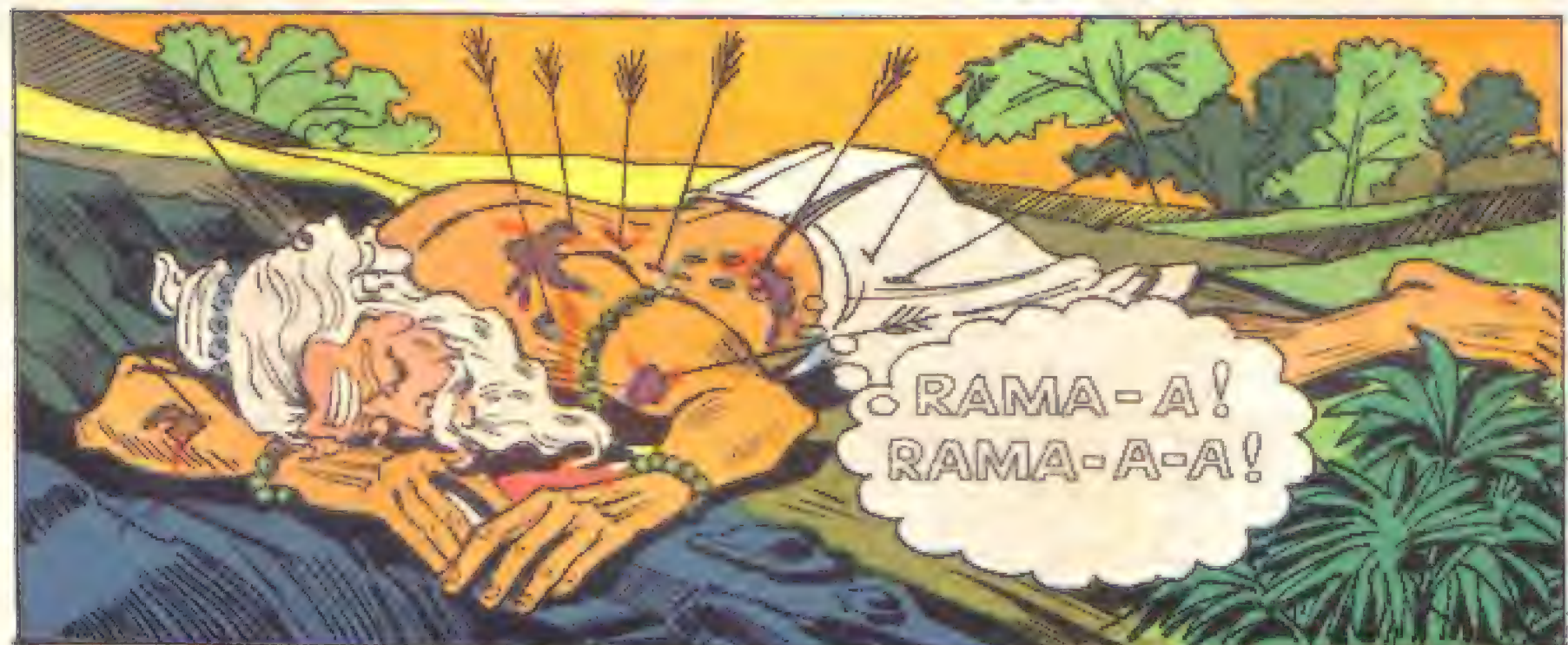
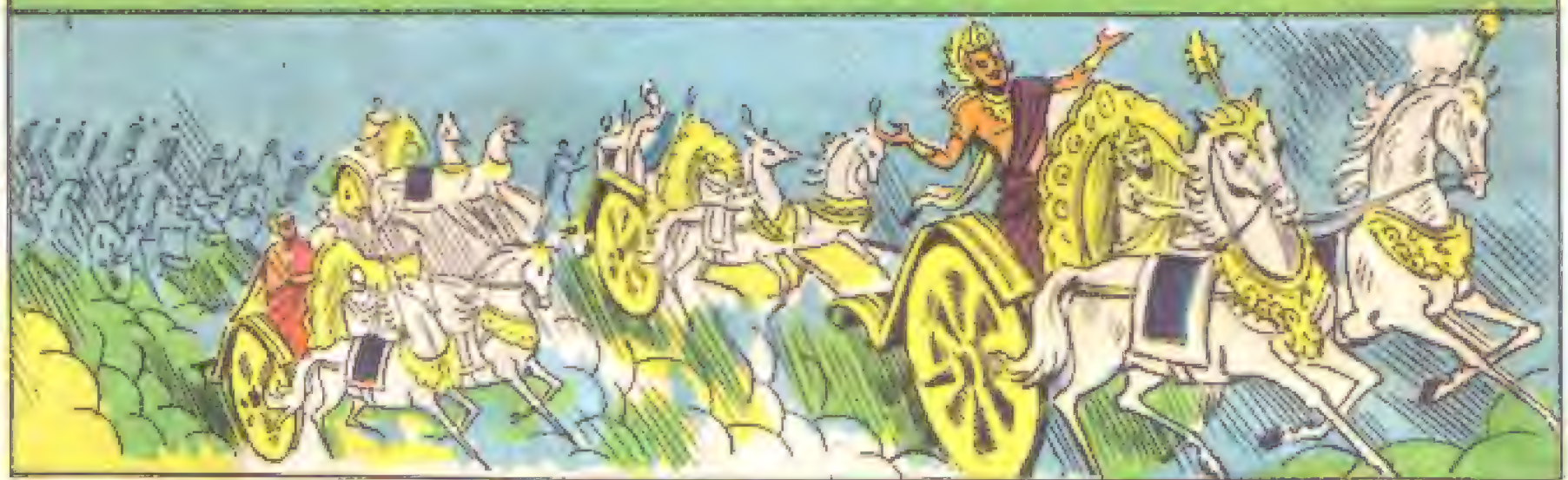





THEY ATTACKED JAMADAGNI AND SHOT ARROWS AT HIM  
FROM ALL DIRECTIONS.



THEY LEFT HIM DYING AND RODE AWAY.







JUST THEN  
PARASHURAMA  
RETURNED  
FROM THE  
FOREST.

FATHER!  
FATHER! IT IS  
MY FAULT THAT  
YOU HAVE BEEN  
SHOT DOWN LIKE A  
STAG BY THE MERCILESS  
ARROWS OF THE MEAN  
SONS OF ARJUNA.

WITH  
WHAT FACE  
WILL THEY RETURN  
TO THEIR FRIENDS  
AND SERVANTS  
AFTER COMMITTING  
SUCH A HEINOUS  
CRIME?



AS PARASHURAMA CREMATED HIS FATHER'S BODY, HE TOOK A VOW.

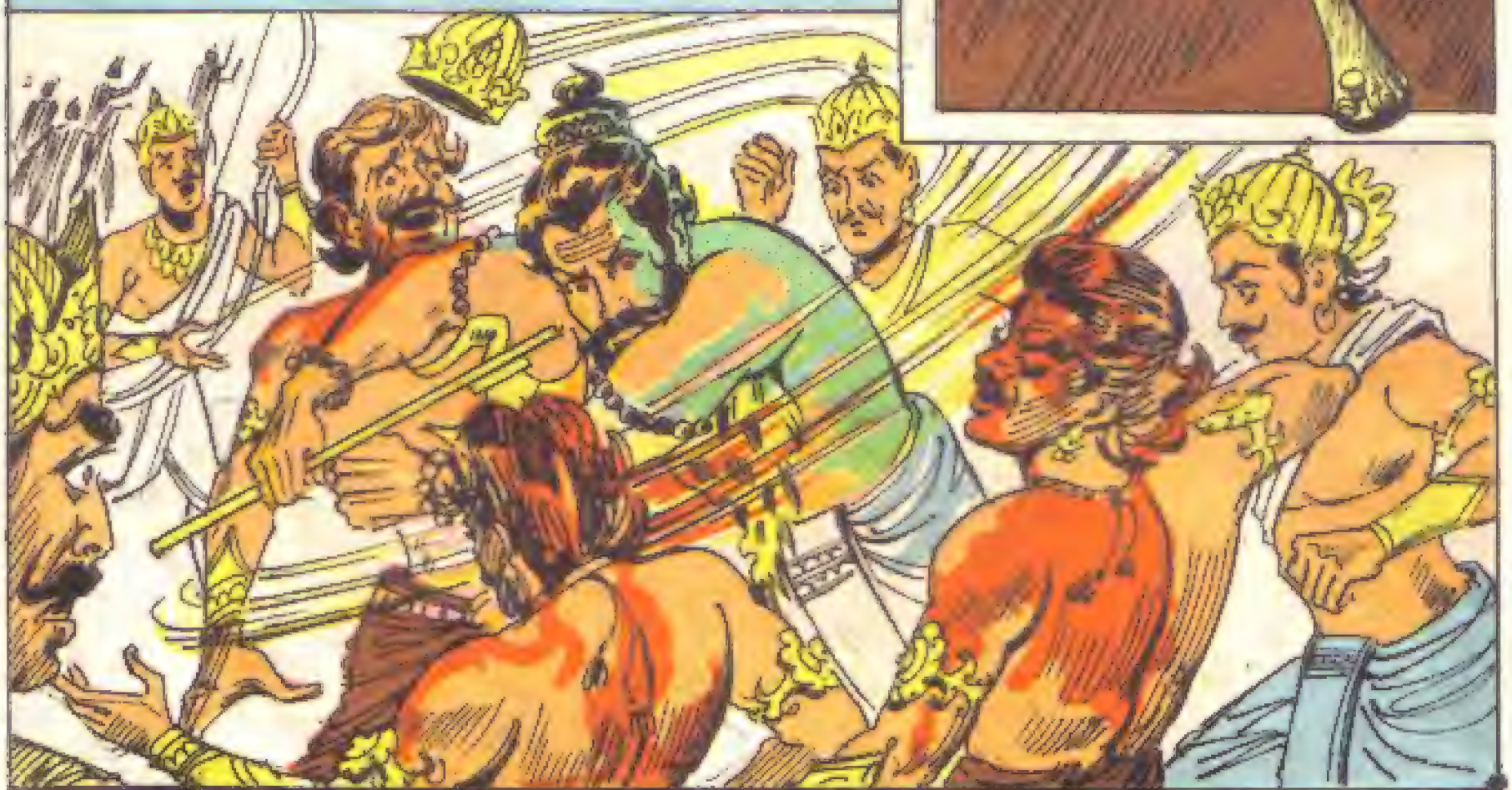
I SHALL NOT REST,  
DEAR FATHER,  
TILL I HAVE WIPED OUT  
THE ENTIRE MARTIAL  
RACE OF THE  
KSHATRIYAS.



WHEN THE LAST EMBERS  
DIED OUT, HE RAISED HIS  
AXE AND BEGAN HIS SELF-  
IMPOSED TASK.



KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA'S SONS WERE THE  
FIRST TO BE WIPED OUT.





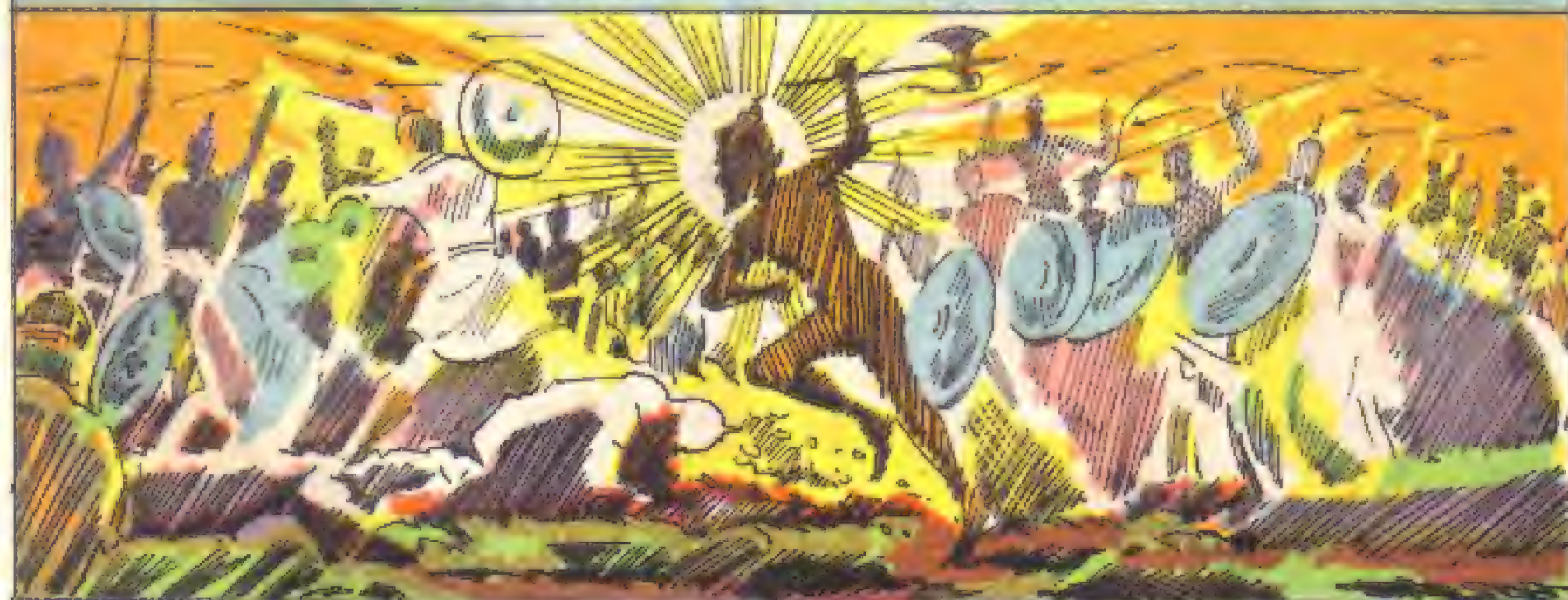
THEN ONE BY ONE HE MASSACRED ALL THE KSHATRIYAS ON EARTH.



BUT EACH TIME HE KILLED ONE LOT, THEIR SONS WOULD SPRING UP.



THUS PARASHURAMA PATIENTLY CONTINUED WIPING OUT TWENTY-ONE GENERATIONS OF KSHATRIYAS.





BUT ALAS! HE KILLED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION BOTH THE EVIL AND THE GOOD KSHATRIYAS.

I HAVE HARMED NONE. MY SUBJECTS ARE HAPPY. WHY DO YOU WANT TO KILL ME AND DEPRIVE THEM OF MY PROTECTION? ?



BUT PARASHURAMA WAS RELENTLESS.

ONE OF YOUR CASTE MURDERED MY FATHER WHILE HE WAS DEFENCELESS. SO YOU SHALL DIE.



SOON THERE WERE NO STRONG GOOD MEN TO PROTECT THE GOOD ON EARTH.

ALAS! OUR KING IS KILLED AND THERE IS NONE TO PROTECT US.

SHUDRAS AND VAISHYAS HAVE NO REGARD FOR BRAHMANAS AND THEIR WOMEN.



MOTHER EARTH FELT THAT IT WAS TIME TO INTERVENE.



I SHALL APPROACH SAGE KASHYAPA.



SO MOTHER EARTH WENT TO KASHYAPA.



LORD  
PARASHURAMA'S  
WORK IS OVER.  
I AM RELIEVED  
OF MY BURDEN.  
PLEASE  
STOP HIM NOW.

I WILL SPEAK  
TO THE SPIRITS  
OF HIS ANCESTORS.

KASHYAPA BY HIS SPIRITUAL POWERS,  
CALLED FORTH THE SPIRIT OF RICHIKA.

PARASHURAMA'S  
MISSION IS OVER.  
IT IS NOW  
TIME FOR HIM  
TO DESIST.

SO SHALL IT BE.  
HE WILL OBEY  
HIS ANCESTORS.





AND RICHKA KEPT HIS PROMISE. WHEN PARASHURAMA WAS ABOUT TO RAISE HIS AXE ON A KING OF THE TWENTY-SECOND GENERATION OF KSHATRIYAS -

STOP,  
RAMA!

MY SOUL  
WILL FIND  
NO PEACE TILL  
MY VOW IS  
FULFILLED.

YOU HAVE  
AVENGED YOUR FATHER  
MANY TIMES OVER.  
MOTHER EARTH HAS BEEN  
RELIEVED OF ALL EVIL  
KSHATRIYAS.  
YOUR WORK  
IS DONE.

IT IS  
MY DUTY TO OBEY  
MY ANCESTORS  
WHOM I TRUST  
BEFORE ALL.  
I SHALL DO  
AS YOU SAY.



PARASHURAMA THEN HELD A GREAT SACRIFICE WHERE HE DISTRIBUTED ALL HIS WEALTH TO THE BRAHMANAS.



AFTER EVERYTHING HAD BEEN GIVEN AWAY, DRONA, THE SON OF SAGE BHARADWAJ, CAME TO HIM.

ALAS! YOU COME LATE. ALL THAT I HAVE NOW IS THIS BODY AND MY WEAPONS. I CAN GIVE YOU EITHER, AS YOU CHOOSE.

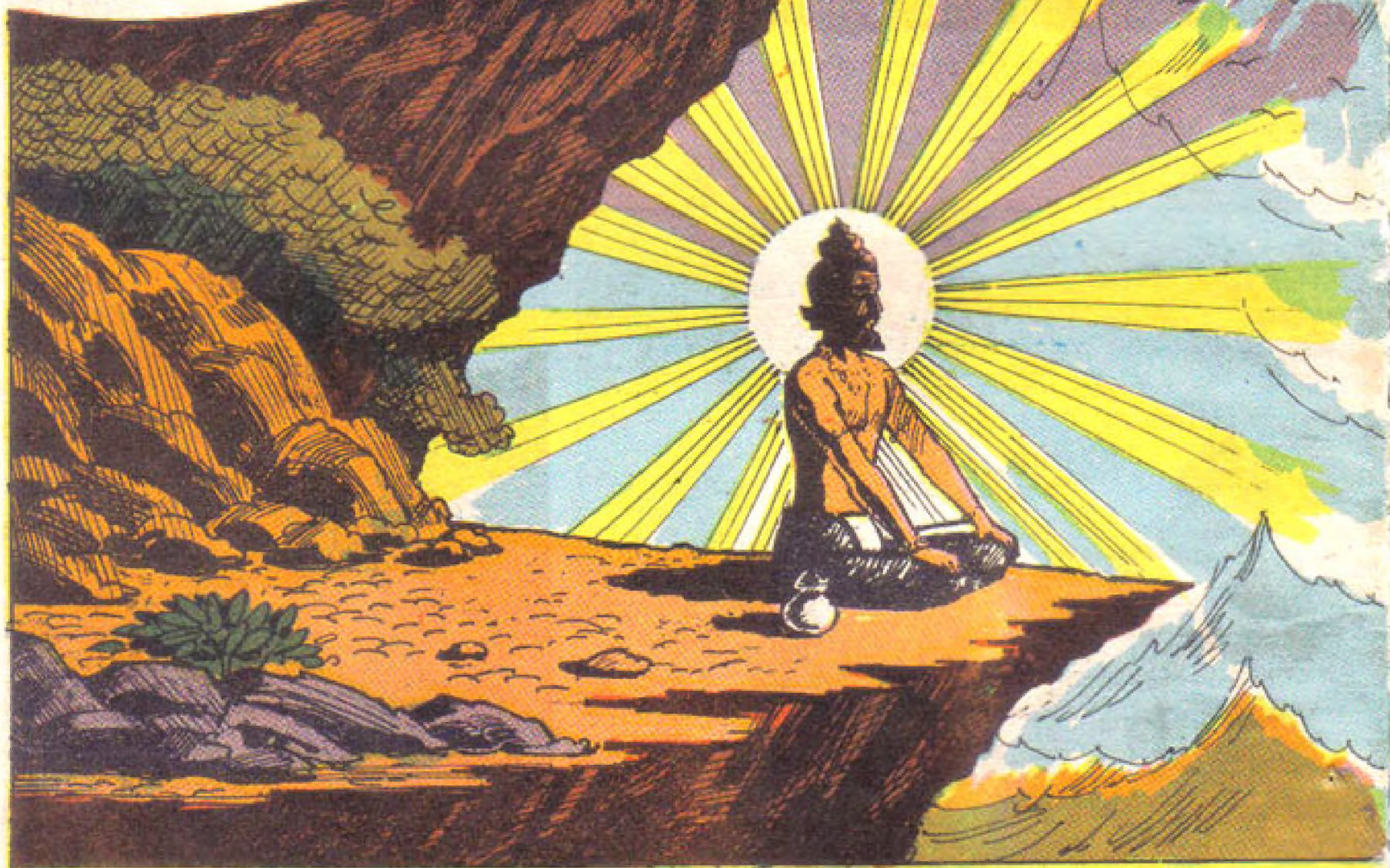
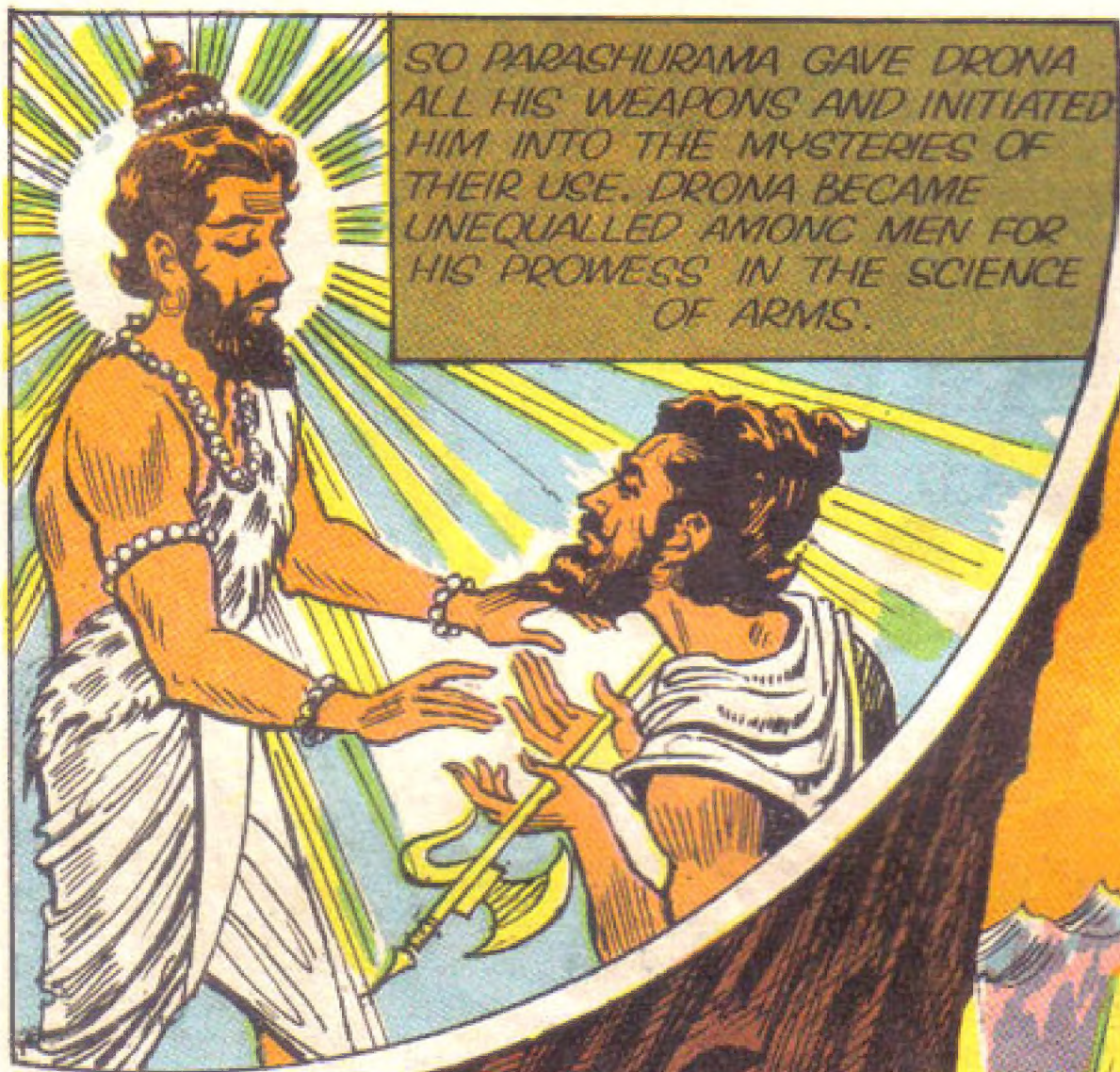


I SHALL RECEIVE THE WEAPONS WITH THE MYSTERIES OF THEIR USE.





SO PARASHURAMA GAVE DRONA ALL HIS WEAPONS AND INITIATED HIM INTO THE MYSTERIES OF THEIR USE. DRONA BECAME UNEQUALLED AMONG MEN FOR HIS PROWESS IN THE SCIENCE OF ARMS.



AND PARASHURAMA, HAVING THUS RID HIMSELF OF ALL HIS WORLDLY BURDENS, RETIRED TO THE CRESTS IN THE MAHENDRA MOUNTAINS TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS DAYS, ENGAGED IN PRACTISING THE SEVEREST OF PENANCES.





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